Big Cypress National Preserve



05/06/2011 Jarhead Fire Update

Florida

Southwest Area Incident Management Team Incident Commander: Dugger Hughes

Public Information Officer: Jim Payne, 602-803-4270 (cell)

Public Affairs Officer/Landowner Contact: Bob DeGross, 239-695-1107, 239-293-3643 cell)

Jarhead Fire Information: 239-695-0031

Fire Facts:

Location: Center of Big Cypress National Preserve

Size: approximately 25,330 acres (as of 1800 5/5/11)

Percent Contained: 20%

Cause: lightning

Number of Personnel: 325 Crews: 3 Type 1, 2 Type 2

Date started: 04/26/2011

Estimated Containment Date: 5/18/2011

Injuries to Date: one (minor)

Aircraft: three Type 1 and three Type 2 helicopters Equipment: four fire swamp buggies, 26 engines

General Information/Announcements:

The National Park Service has established incident priorities that include firefighter and public safety, protecting private property, threatened and endangered species and their habitat, and natural and cultural resources. NPS resource advisors continue to work with crews to assess resource impacts and appropriate firefighting tactics.

Residual smoke from yesterday's operations will likely clear by mid-morning. Favorable atmospheric conditions should allow smoke to disperse today, minimizing risk of smoke on highways.

Today's Activity:

Crews will patrol burned out fire edge along the northeastern perimeter of the fire. Structure protection activities will take place around hunting camps and residences. Along the southern front, aerial and hand ignition will be used to bring the fire south toward the containment line. Patrol and mop up operations will proceed along Monument Trail on the southwest side of the fire. Containment line preparation will be initiated on the northwest flank. To the west of the fire front, fire crews will work with Preserve resource specialists to remove fuel around the bases of red cockaded woodpecker cavity trees to prevent torching if fire reaches this area.

Closures/Advisories:

The Preserve is closed west of Oasis Visitor Center to Turner River Road, south of I-75 and north of U.S. 41. This closure includes the Florida National Scenic Trail within the area and the Oasis ORV access.

Public Safety Message:

Please be aware of and observe area closures in effect due to aerial and firefighting operations. Drivers on U.S. 41 and I-75 should exercise extreme caution due to smoke and fire vehicle traffic.

Partners/Cooperators

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Ochopee Fire District, Everglades City Fire District, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Collier County Sheriff's Department, Collier County Emergency Operations Center, Collier County Health Department.

The Southwest Area Incident Management Team took responsibility for fire suppression on 5/1/2011. The team is managing the fire under the direction of Big Cypress National Preserve, a unit of the National Park Service.

For More Information

http://www.nps.gov/bicy/naturescience/fire-activity-and-related-closures.htm http://www.nps.gov/fire/ , http://www.inciweb.org